Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters to look into the issues related to freedom fighters and give suggestions for redressal of their problems and complaints and improving the facilities given to them and their dependents; and (ii) the Screening Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters to scrutinize the pension cases relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement which were referred to the concerned State Governments for re-verification. Three meetings of the Committee of eminent Freedom Fighters have been held so far in which a number of suggestions were given, *inter alia,* for improving the facilities provided to freedom fighters and expediting the pension cases. Similarly, three meetings of the Screening Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters have also been held. The Screening Committee is in the process of scrutinizing cases relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement in which re-verification reports have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

ISI-backed espionage modules

3144. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's ISI-backed terror Modules are extending tentacles far and wide;

(b) whether Centre admitted a significant presence of ISI-backed espionage modules which are at work, entrusted with the task of spying State secrets;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh emerged major hub for such spying for ISI agents and 10 ISI-backed espionage modules have been neutralized in Agra, Meerut, Varanasi, etc. during the last three years (2004-07);

(d) whether his Ministry has constituted inter-state intelligence support teams and security and intelligence agencies belonging to the Centre and States to check their activities; and

(e) to what extent these agencies have succeeded in the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The involvement of ISI-backed terrorist groups/ modules have come to light in various terrorist incidents in the country. Further, as per available information, although a number of ISI-backed espionage and terrorist modules have been busted in the country, it would however be inappropriate to presume that ISI-backed terror/espionage modules are extending their tentacles far and wide or that their presence is significant. It is correct that 10 ISI-backed espionage modules have been neutralized in Uttar Pradesh during 2004-2007, but it can not be said that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a major hub for spying by ISI agents. The Inter-State Intelligence Support Teams (ISISTs) have been constituted for dealing with internal threats concerning more than one State. The Central Government has been sensitizing the State Governments about the activities of ISI. The Central and State security and intelligence agencies by maintaining close coordination have also devised strategies to counter such threats, which is reflected by the number of such modules busted from time to time.

Misappropriation of funds allocated for Tsunami relief

3145. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been misappropriation of funds allocated for the Tsunami relief;

(b) if so, the details of such misuse of funds; and

(c) the details of steps taken to discount the possibility of misappropriation of funds meant for natural calamity/emergency situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India have prepared a Performance Audit Report on Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation, 2006. While no misappropriation has been indicated, they have pointed out a few cases of irregular payments, surrender of funds, non-adjustment of advances, excess expenditure, non utilization of funds and avoidable expenditure.

(c) The primary responsibility of 'response' to disasters in terms of carrying out immediate rescue and providing relief rests with the State Governemts. As per the scheme of operation of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), the State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State is responsible to ensure that money drawn from the CRF/NCCF is actually utilized for the purposes for which it has been sanctioned and only on approved items of expenditure and as per norms prescribed in the guidelines issued by the Government. The State Governments are also required to submit utilization certificates periodically on expenditure incurred by the State from the CRF/ NCCF in the prescribed format to the Central Government. State Governments have also been asked to ensure transparency in the identification of beneficiaries, distribution of relief and to display the list of beneficiaries at prominent public places in the light of observations made by the CAG.

RAF insignia used by State Armed Police Battalions

3146. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insignia RAF is used as an acronym for Rapid Action Force raised by the Centre to deal with riots and riot like situations;

(b) if so, whether the CRPF has recently brought to the notice of the Centre that this RAF insignia is being used by state armed police battalions during its operations wearing blue uniforms with the RAF insignia on shoulder; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) CRPF has informed that Specialised Armed Police wing of Kolkata Police has been seen using insignia and uniform similar to that of the RAF. CRPF has taken up the issue with Commissioner of Police Kolkata (WB) inviting attention to the directive of Ministry of Home Affairs dated 14.2.1997 regarding use of name of RAF and its uniform by State Police Forces and has requested them to make suitable changes.

Communalization and politicization of anti-terror laws

3147. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States are intending to frame laws which may move towards communalization and Politicization on anti-terror laws;